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for men,

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AT BOTTOM PRICES.

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Capes, Separate Skirts,

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Have we had such a Complete Line of Goods.

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| Ten Balls Thread for | |
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For Gents,

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ious,

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OUR BLANKETS

And Comforts

will keep Jack Frost off your

UNDERWEAR

For Gents,

Ladies,

Misses and Children

AT POPULAR PRICES.

HE LOST FINGER

Story of Pioneer Life In Central America

ranch of Senor Diaz was on a

ing slope, overlooking the broad, a waters of one of the tribuof the Parana, on whose opposite
the rank grass grew ten and
feet high.

house itself had a tropical charit was Spanish-American, with
, shady verands, a long, low
painted walls and latticed wina spacious court and a flat roof,
ed with a parapet, which gave
sole structure the appearance of
Many acres of cultivated land
long lines of sugar cane and
es laden with bananas, in surcontrast to the dark, impeuemass of wild bushland which in
nnce surrounded the settlement.
a Diaz was one of the tropical
s of whom Murillo dreamed.

going to test your gallantry," d. coming out on the veranda sat, "by asking you to help me r my dowers, for with my lame is not easy for me to lift the watering pot."

at your service, but allow me wrong?—to remind you that you d to tell me the story of how ad was lamed."

and you will hear all about

dingly I was shortly afterward coffee with the little Lolita, t's only daughter and my pet, me, while her mother rolled a e, lighted it and began as fol-

we came here this was a very tee, and we and to endure a for pests. For instance, when sas a baby, my husband and went off one morning to work I, and the child lay askeep on the end of the room. Suddenwe on the floor the skin of a from which the whole body a sucked, as from an orange, at once that a snake must be or they feel on mice and eat this fashio, but, carefully as a about m I could see no fill all at only it occurred to it might be here the baby's snatched the hild up and her in safety. Then I lifted part of the mat and stere it in long slimy, green an gold

reptile coiled up and fast asleep. Ah, how I jumped! I ran out into the courtyard to call for help. Luckily our man, Jose, was there, and he killed the reptile. But as we cleared more acres the snakes left us to hide themselves in the forest. I began to hope our cares were ended, but they were only just begun. Wild beasts now first appeared on the scene.

One morning while we were at breakfast one of our herdsmen brought the news that our cattle, which graze in the tail grass on the other side of the river, had been attacked by a jaguar that had killed one of the bulls. The man who told us this had escaped with his life, yet he would have scarcely done so if he had not misled the beast or had there not been a fat ox there.

A week passed without a new alarm, and we had come to think less about it, when suddenly three or four Indians rushed in to tell us how a great jaguar had broken into their camp and killed a woman and one of their dogs.

When my husband heard the story,

he judged that it was the same animal that had attacked our bull, for the Indians described it as a creature of singular color, far lighter than any they had seen about there, so that they named it "The White Death."

We all thought it high time to do something, and my husband called his people together to go out and hunt the animal.

I remember that morning distinctly. They went away cheerfully enough, each man with his gun and hunting knife, and Moro, our bloodhound, was with them. My husband turned around just as he entered the wood and kissed his hand to me. Then he and his companions vanished in the forest.

When I found myself with Lolita alone in the house and thought of what might happen if they met that terrible wild animal, such anxiety seized me (although I never thought I could be in danger) that I could not be contented till I had locked every door in the house, and then I seated myself in the great sitting room, took Lolita on my lap and tried to tell her a story.

Suddenly I heard a scratching along the roof, and then a dull thud, as if

something heavy had fallen.

Anxious and nervous as I was, I started up with a cry, although I had

no presentiment what it was.

The next moment I heard just over me a sound which I could not mistake—a long, passionate roar—a cry that I had often heard from the woods at night and never without feeling as if my heart stood still. The thought rushed through my mind, "Ob, heaven, the language"

I shall never forget that moment! For a second I was quite rigid and helpless, as if life had departed, and then a thought flashed upon me. The jaguar was not to be kept off if he penetrated here from the roof, for most of the inner doorways had only draperies. In my dining room was a great wooden meal chest, nearly empty and large enough to hold six or seven persons at once. If Lolita and I could get there, thought I, we are saved.

I seized the child, ran with her into the dining room and crept into the chest. Unfortunately it had a spring lock, so that I was forced to hold the lid open with my left hand to guard against its locking and immediately stifling us. But it had more than an inch of outer rim, which completely hid my fingers.

It was not a moment too soon. We were scarcely hidden when I heard the great claws scratching along the floor, and the hungry sniffing of the jaguar showed me that he was in search of food.

He came straight to the chest and paused a moment, as if he feared a trap. Then he put his head close to the small opening, so that I could feel his hot breath. He sniffed awhile and then tried to raise the lid with his

paw.

How I trembled! But, thank heaven, the great paw would not go in the narrow crevice, and I held the cover fast by clinging to the inner part of the lock with all the strength of desperation. All he could do was to stretch out his tongue and lick my fingers until they bled as if they had been scratched by a saw. And then, as he tasted blood and heard Lolita cry—for my poor darling was just as frightened as I was—his eagerness increased, and he began to utter piercing yells, which sent icy chills over me.

I wonder why the fright did not kill me, but the touch of Lolita's little arm around my neck seemed to keep up my

Still the worst was yet to come.

When the jaguar found that he could not reach me from below, he sprang upon the chest. His huge weight crushed my fingers between the two parts of the lock. Then I thought all was over and shrieked so that my cries rang through the whole house.

But my cries were presently answered by a sound which made my heart throb with joy-answered by the barking of our bloodbound. The jaguar heard it, too, for he sprang dawn and stood for a moment listening, then ran to the door as if to fiee.

Again came the sound of the dog's bark - this time nearer - and at the same time the voices of men calling to

each other. Contrary to expectation they were already coming back.

Meanwhile the jaguar seemed to be bewildered and ran wildly to and fro. Suddenly a loud cry came from one of the windows, followed by two shots and a fearful howl; then my husband's voice anxiously called:

"Cachita, where are you?"

I had just strength enough left to get out of the chest, drag myself to the door and let my husband in. Then I swooned away

I swooned away.

They told me afterward that our bloodhound found the jaguar's trail, leading straight back to the house, and they all hurried home at full speed, fearing harm would come to me.

My husband and Jose came in front of the rest and shot the jaguar through the window, but my husband told me that when he saw the animal in the bouse he felt as if stifled.

I could not move a joint of that hand for many weeks afterward. The Indians gave me medicine to heal it, and they say that after awhile I shall be able to use it again. I did not need this injury to make me remember that day. If I were to live a thousand years, I could not forget the few terrible moments that I spent in the chest—moments that seemed to comprise an eternity of terror.

Another Way.

Bizzer—I am going to enter a monastery, to live a life of meekness and privation.

Buzzer-Nonsense! Why don't you become a poet?-Ohio State Journal.

A Wise Precaution



"Ah, John writes that he's been matriculated at college. Thet's good. Some epidemic mought break out."—New York Journal.

Sterilized Books.

To guard against insidious bacidiphysicians are recommending sterilizing books in the public libraries, not in the hope of killing evil producing literature, but to destroy noxious germs concealed; in their leaves and bindings. That disease has frequently been transmitted by the circulation of books has long been suspected, and the belief has recently been verified. The most careful work in this direc-

The most careful work in this direction has been done by the Chicago Public library, and Dr. Kuflewski reports that he found a large number of bacifit, representing nearly a hundred different poisons and disease germs. Fifty books, selected at random, were examined, and all of them were found more or less infected. Dry sterilization is recommended.

The Healthiest Land In Europe.

An article in the Statistische Wochenschrift upon the comparative increase of longevity in the various nations or Europe imagines that Sweden will belong become recognized as the healthiest of European lands. early part of the last century its sanitary reputation was bad, but between 1830 and 1840 its mortality was reduced to 26.8 in 1,000. Each successive shown a rem provement in the longevity of its inhabitants. In 1870 the deaths were 20.2 in 1,000; in 1900, 16.5. With such favorable conditions of health it is no wonder that the tourist in Sweden should say that he "met an old Swede at every turn."

Costly Eggs.

A curious case came up the other day before the court in Caroline courty, Md., when an ancient resident was charged with the larceny of nine eggs. Extra jurors had to be summoned, and it cost the county \$250 to try the case. The accused was seventy-three years old. His counsel said he had known the defendant for forty years, and it was incredible that he would steal eggs. He argued that anyhow the state had not shown that the eggs were sound, and nine rotten eggs would have no value at all. The jury stayed out fifteen minuten and returned a verdict of not guilty.

Birdlike

"How do you feel?" asked the leader of the mob after the tar and feathers had been applied in liberal doses.

"Oh, I feel like a bird," smiled the barn stormer, glancing at the feathers. For such wit they allowed him to write home and tell the old folks he was leaving town by the all rail route.—Chicago News.